



# **2 Timothy 4**

# **Finishing the Race**

**The Christian race is a lifelong marathon not a sprint**



# **Purpose Statement**

**Live with purpose and be faithful as you run  
the race of the Christian life.**

# Outline

- A.** Keep Christ's return in sight
- B.** There will be opposition and difficulty
- C.** There will be casualties
- D.** People you love will disappoint you
- E.** The Lord will stand by you and deliver you

# Keep Christ's return in sight

- **Vs 1:** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by **his appearing and his kingdom:**
- **Vs 8:** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have **loved his appearing.**
- **Heb 12:1b-2:** And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- **1 Thess 4:16-18** **For the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore **encourage one another with these words.**

# There will be opposition and difficulty

- **Vs 3-5:** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound<sup>[a]</sup> teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- **Vs 14-15:** Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. <sup>15</sup> Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.

# There will be casualties

- **Vs 6-7:** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- **1 Thess 4:13-14:** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
- **Acts 20:29-30** I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

# People you love will disappoint you

- **Vs 10:** For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.
- **Vs 16:** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!
- **1:15** You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

# The Lord will stand by you and deliver you

- **Vs 17:** But **the Lord stood by** me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.
- **Vs 18:** The **Lord will rescue me** from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- **2:1:** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus

# Concluding Thoughts

- The Christian race is long and hard, but keep running.
  - There will be opposition and difficulty
  - People you love will die, or suffer
  - People you love, and pour yourself into will disappoint you
- Fix your eyes on Christ and look forward to his return.
- Remember that Christ will stand by you and deliver you into his heavenly kingdom